

CLAIMS

1. A data exchange system among cooperative companies in which data is mutually exchanged among a plurality of cooperative companies which produce products cooperatively, periodically collecting or retrieving at least one of product progress information, quality information and business information of one's own company, standardizing and editing the data for transmission to the cooperative companies, exchanging the data between one's own company and the other company, outputting transmission data to a file in a predetermined format as an attached data of e-mail, automatically and periodically transmitting the e-mail to the cooperative companies, and receiving the e-mail corresponding to the above from the cooperative companies.

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2. The data exchange system among the cooperative companies according to claim 1, wherein FTP is used as a communication protocol of said data exchange.

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3. The data exchange system among the cooperative companies according to claim 2, wherein a proxy server of a software is used as an FTP function for transmission.

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4. The data exchange system among the cooperative companies according to claim 1, wherein at the time of collecting or retrieving data required for creating transmission data to said cooperative companies, when the collected or retrieved data is not new,

retry is performed within a predetermined upper limit number of times to wait for data and when new data is not obtained within said upper limit number of times, an e-mail indicating that new data has not obtained is sent to an address of a person who supplied data.

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5. The data exchange system among the cooperative companies according to claim 1, wherein there is provided a database which takes in data collected in the company and received from the cooperative companies are taken in a predetermined cycle and stores,
10 updates and maintains the data.

6. The data exchange system among the cooperative companies according to claim 1, wherein the data in said database is disclosed in the company through an intranet.

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7. The data exchange system among the cooperative companies according to claim 1, wherein there is provided a conversion master for converting data between said company and the cooperative company, which has data such as product names, lot numbers and the
20 like used in each cooperative company.

8. The data exchange system among the cooperative companies according to claim 1, wherein the file attached to said e-mail has been added with a password and compressed.